

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on February 6, 2002, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 3, 12, 17, 20, 21 and 22 are amended, and claims 32-39 are added; as a result, claims 3-10, 12-25, and 27-39 are now pending in this application.

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). Applicant respectfully traverses. The Examiner asserted that the subject matter of claims 9 and 24 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). Applicant respectfully traverses, noting that claim 9 is supported in Figure 10 and 16, but is not limited to those embodiments, and claim 24 is supported in Figures 19f and 19g. Accordingly no drawing changes are needed, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objections.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant respectfully requests that a copy of the 1449 Form, listing all references that were submitted with the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 31, 2001 and November 5, 2001, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned with the next official communication.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 3-10, 12-25 and 27-31 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art in view of Jackson et al. (U.S. 6,139,243). Applicant has amended claims 3, 12, 17 and 20 to overcome the rejection. The amendment is supported in Figure 10 and 16, as well as the description on page 5 lines 25-30. Jackson moves the trays along the tray's long dimension (note Jackson Fig.1 where the axis of rotation 42 is parallel to the direction of tray travel shown by the arrow, and Fig. 4 where the axis of flip rotation 42 is parallel to the long dimension of the tray), thus increasing the time needed to transfer the trays to and from the flip station. In contrast, the present claimed invention of claims 3, 12, and 20 as amended, and their respective dependent claims recite moving the trays (to or

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from the flip station) in a direction perpendicular to the long side dimension or parallel to the short side dimension of the tray. This short-dimension movement reduces the time of travel, shrinks the footprint size of the conveyor needed, and reduces the jostleing and shaking of the devices in the tray due to fast start and stop motions if the trays were moved in the long dimension in the same amount of time (if the devices are moving when moved to the second inspection time due to jostling in the trays, extra time must be wasted to wait for the devices to stop moving so a picture can be taken). Accordingly, claims 3, 12, 17 and 20 and their dependent claims appear in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

With regard to the rejection of claim 22, Applicant respectfully traverses. Jackson discusses flipping the devices from a first tray into a second tray and then passing the second tray. In such a system, any identification or markings on the first tray that are associated with a particular set or batch of devices are no longer associated with the devices once they are placed in the second tray. Neither Jackson nor the Applicant's discussion of the prior art flips the devices and then puts the devices back into the same tray. In contrast, the present Figures 19c-19g show flipping a plurality of devices and then placing them back into the same tray.

New claims 32-37 have been added to more fully describe applicant's invention. Claims 32-36 are supported by Fig 19c-19g and the description thereof. These aspects of the invention place the devices back into the same tray, giving the advantage of keeping the devices associated with any marking on the tray, such as a batch identifier associated with particular devices. Claims 37-39 are supported by Figure 10 and 16 and the description thereof. No new matter is added. None of the cited references include the claimed combination including a pick-and-place mechanism that provides an all-good tray of devices.

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Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612-373-6949) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

ARYE MALEK ET AL.

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Date

6 June 2002

By

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 6th of June 2002.

Charles A. Lemaire

Name

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